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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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ACTION ARA-01

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| INFO | LOG-00 | ACDA-15 | AID-01 | AMAD-01 | CA-02 | CIAE-00 | SJK-01 |
| | C-01 | DODE-00 | DS-00 | EB-01 | EUR-01 | CSCE-01 | HA-09 |
| | H-01 | INRE-00 | INR-01 | L-03 | ADS-00 | NSAE-00 | OCS-06 |
| | OMB-01 | PA-01 | PM-01 | PRS-01 | P-01 | SCT-03 | SNP-01 |
| | SP-01 | SSC-01 | SSO-00 | SS-01 | TRSE-00 | T-01 | USIE-00 |
| | DTC-01 | /059W | | | | | |

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O 041505Z FEB 92 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8005
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM IMMEDIATE
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
ARA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
MSGBN QUANTICO VA PRIORITY
USOFFICE MRC MIAMI PRIORITY 1728
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 01128

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MASS, ASEC, CASC, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: SITREP NO. 8: ATTEMPTED COUP, 2/4/92

REF: CARACAS 01116 AND PREVIOUS, NOTAL

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

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2. LIGHT TO HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IS STILL CLEARLY AUDIBLE NEAR THE EMBASSY AT 1030, DESPITE THE REPORTED PACIFICATION OF THE LA CARLOTA REBELS. SOME OF THIS GUN-FIRE MAY BE TRIGGER-HAPPY CIVILIANS. WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY CASUALTIES IN THIS VECINITY.

3. AT 1025 [redacted] B1

[redacted] THE ARMY HAS TAKEN POSSESSION OF THE AIRPORT LA CARLOTA. (OUR DATT HAS GONE TO LA CARLOTA TO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.) [redacted] B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 3 FEB 2017
DATE/CASE ID: 21 JUL 2006 200503206

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[redacted] B1

[redacted] THE GOVERNOR WAS RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER, AND HAS SINCE APPEARED ON TELEVISION. (GOV. TABLANTE OF ARAGUA STATE HAS ALSO BEEN SET FREE AND HAS APPEARED ON TELEVISION.)

[redacted] B1

5. THE GOV AT 1015 OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR 10 DAYS. THE DECISION WAS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS THAT HAS BEEN MEETING SINCE 0700 THIS MORNING, PRESIDED OVER BY CAP. THE GOV, BEFORE ANNOUNCING THE DECISION, REPORTEDLY CONSULTED WITH THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES. THE GOV WILL SUBMIT THE DECISION TO SUSPEND CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES FOR





RATIFICATION BY A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS TODAY. THE SUSPENSION WILL RESTRICT CITIZENS' LIBERTY OF TRANSIT, OF EXPRESSION (TO ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER), OF ASSOCIATION, TO STRIKE, AND TO PUBLICLY DEMONSTRATE.

6. THE GOV HAS ALSO, ACCORDING TO A RADIO NEWS REPORT, SUSPENDED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR TWO DAYS. THIS DECREE IS SAID TO AFFECT FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS.

B1

7. AT ABOUT 10:00 A.M., [redacted] THAT THE "SITUATION IN CARACAS IS UNDER CONTROL, WITH SOME POCKETS OF RESISTANCE." HOWEVER, [redacted] WERE CONFIDENT THAT THESE "POCKETS WILL BE DEALT WITH IN THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS." ACCORDING TO THESE [redacted] THE SITUATION IN MARACAIBO, VALENCIA AND MARACA, REMAINS "MORE DIFFICULT." THEY CONFIRMED EARLIER REPORTS THAT SOME REBELS STILL REMAINED UNDER ARMS IN THESE CITIES.

B1

B1

8. [redacted] RETURNED TO THE EMBASSY FROM CHECKING OUT THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL CARACAS AND REPORTED AT 1030 THAT:

-- PARQUE DEL ESTE AND ALL ACCESS TO THE LA CASONA

PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE ARE CLOSED.
-- MAIN STREET IN BELLO CAMPO NEIGHBORHOOD IS CLOSED AND SHOOTING IS TAKING PLACE THERE.
-- THE MAIN AUTOPISTA ENTRANCE TO ALTAMIRA (THE EXIT FOR AMEMBASSY) IS CLOSED.
-- LA CARLOTA AIRFIELD IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.
-- SUBWAY (METRO) NOT FUNCTIONING IN CENTRAL CARACAS.



-- ACCORDING TO DISIP (SECURITY POLICE) TO WHOM HE SPOKE, 6 POLICEMEN AND 4 DISIP OFFICERS WERE KILLED DEFENDING LA CASONA FROM THE REBEL ATTACK. SKOL